

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 INR-05 LAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EC, VE

SUBJ: EFFORT ESTABLISH NEW TRADE UNION CENTER IN ECUADOR

1. RUMORS THAT DISSIDENTS FROM CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CENTERS IN ECUADOR WOULD ATTEMPT ESTABLISH NEW, INDEPENDENT CONFEDERATION IN ECUADOR GAINED SUBSTANCE THIS WEEK WITH ARRIVAL IN QUITO OF DR. JAIME DALI FROM CARACAS AND STAGING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS. APPARENTLY, ONLY SUBSTANTIAL GROUP INVOLVED IN NEW CONFEDERATION CALLED CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DEL ECUADOR (CNT) IS BREAK-OFF CEDOC (CHRISTIAN) CAMPESINO FEDERATION FENOC LED BY FRANCISCO CHECA CONSISTING MOSTLY OF CAMPESINOS FROM RIOBAMBA. OF COURSE, EXISTING CENTRALS HAVE OPPOSED FORMATION OF NEW CENTRAL.

2. ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIALS DENY ANY MINISTRY CONNECTION WITH OR SUPPORT FOR THE NEW GROUP, TRADE UNION LEADERS SUSPECT GOE (PERHAPS MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE) INTEREST IN FORMATION OF NEW CNT. CNT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE, WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS, TOURED PROVINCES ATTEMPTING DRUM UP SUPPORT AND SUCH ACTIVITY REQUIRES MONEY. FACT THAT INAUGURAL CONGRESS BEING

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HELD IN LEGISLATIVE PALACE, EVEN THOUGH IN COMBINATION

WITH LONG PLANNED 4TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF FENOC, TENDS
SUPPORT SUSPICION OF GOE INTEREST. FENOC LEADER CHECA,
HOWEVER, HAS DECLARED THAT CNT IS COMPOSED OF DISAFFILIATED
CEDOC ORGANIZATIONS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO PROBLEMS
OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS AND FREE OF GOVERNMENT OR
POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

3. COMMENT: OUR VIEW IS THAT CNT DOES NOT REPRESENT A
TRADE UNION FORCE, BUT IS RATHER AN INITIAL EFFORT TO
FORM NEW CAMPESINO BASE PERHAPS WITH EYE TOWARD BUILDING
SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT IN RURAL AREAS. ACCORDING TO
LATEST REPORTS FROM TRADE UNION OBSERVERS, INAUGURAL
CONGRESS WAS FAILURE.

4. PRESENCE OF DR. JAIME DALI, DESCRIBED BY PRESS HERE
AS COORDINADOR DE LA UNION LATINOAMERICANA DE COOPERATIVAS
Y SINDICATOS IS PUZZLING. SOURCES HERE WHO KNOW HIM
DESCRIBE DALI AS A LONER, DEDICATED TO COOPERATIVE
MOVEMENT AND WITH PRIVATE WEALTH. ANY INFORMATION
CARACAS CAN PROVIDE REGARDING DALI'S MOTIVATIONS,
SOURCES OF FUNDS AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS WILL BE
APPRECIATED.
BREWSTER

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